

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-01 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ERDA-05 DODE-00
FPC-01 INT-05 PM-04 OES-06 ACDA-07 FEA-01 /122 W
-----140641Z 038223 /17

R 140550Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4746

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EAID JA

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL JAPANESE BUSINESS MISSION TO VISIT MIDDLE
EAST IN FEBRUARY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. A HIGH-LEVEL JAPANESE BUSINESS MISSION PLANS TO VISIT
ABU DHABI AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST FROM
FEBRUARY 4 TO 16. THE FORMAL PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO
RECIPROCATATE A VISIT BY SIMILARLY HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS FROM
ABU DHABI LAST MAY. DURING THEIR VISIT, THE JAPANESE EXPECT
TO LOOK INTO VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING A RAILWAY
PROJECT IN SAUDI ARABIA. END SUMMARY.

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2. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY, A GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS
IS PLANNING TO VISIT SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES FROM
FEBRUARY 4-16. THOSE INCLUDED SO FAR ARE UAE, SAUDI
ARABIA, IRAQ, QATAR, BAHRAIN AND KUWAIT. IT IS NOT YET
CLEAR HOW MANY WILL BE IN THE JAPANESE PARTY (ESTIMATES
VARY FROM 25 TO 40), BUT THE GROUP WILL BE LED BY SHIGEO

NAGANO, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE JAPAN STEEL CORPORATION. OTHERS ARE REPORTED TO BE: SOHEI NAKAYAMA, ADVISOR TO THE JAPAN INDUSTRIAL BANK; BUNICHIRO TABE, PRESIDENT OF THE MITSUBISHI TRADING COMPANY; YOSHIZO IKEDA, PRESIDENT OF MITSUI TRADING COMPANY; YASUICHIRO MATUSO, PRESIDENT OF MARUBENI-IIDA TRADING COMPANY; SEIIKI TOZAKI, PRESIDENT OF C. ITOH TRADING COMPANY; SHIGEICHI KOGA, CHAIRMAN, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES; EISHIRO SAITO, VICE PRESIDENT, JAPAN STEEL COMPANY; MANABU ITANO, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY (JAPAN'S KOKUSAI DENSHIN DENWA); TETSUTARO MIZUNO, PRESIDENT, GOYO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY; GORO KOYAMA, CHAIRMAN, MITSUI BANK; TADASHI KURAHACHI, PRESIDENT, JAPAN PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; HIROKI IMASATO, PRESIDENT, OVERSEAS OIL COMPANY; SOICHI MATSUNE, CHAIRMAN, ENERGY COMMITTEE OF KEIDANREN (FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION); CHIKAO MORI, PRESIDENT, JAPAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION CORPORATION; AND HIROTAKA MITSUDA, CHAIRMAN, DAIKYO OIL COMPANY. HISASHI MATSUNAGA, PRESIDENT OF JAPAN LINES (OCEAN SHIPPING); TOICHIRO TSUTSUI, VICE PRESIDENT OF NIPPON KOKAN (STEEL); YOSHIO TSUJI, PRESIDENT OF NISSHO-IWAI TRADING CO.; HISASHI TSUDA, CHAIRMAN, SUMITOMO TRADING COMPANY. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE VISIT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR LAST DECEMBER ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO A VISIT IN MAY 1976 OF A TEAM LED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ABU DHABI. THE OPEC MEETING IN DOHA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESUMABLY UPSET THAT TIMING. THE GROUP PLANS TO DISPERSE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AFTER CALLING ON ABU DHABI.

3. WHILE THE GROUP SEEMS MORE PRESTIGIOUS THAN ITS ANNOUNCED AGENDA WOULD SEEM TO CALL FOR, THE HIGH RANK IS CONSISTENT WITH JAPANESE PRACTICE IN ESTABLISHING TOP LEVEL CONTACTS WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP LATER BY EXCHANGES AT MORE TECHNICAL LEVELS. ALTHOUGH OIL WILL NO DOUBT BE HIGH ON THE LIST OF TOPICS DISCUSSED, THE MAKE-UP OF THE GROUP INDICATED THAT IT WILL BE LOOKING INTO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF VARIOUS KINDS. THE HIGH LEVEL MAY REFLECT A DESIRE TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN SUCH PROJECTS AND RELATED EXPORTS, WHICH IS BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE DISAPPOINTINGLY LOW.

4. ACCORDING TO THE AUTHORITATIVE JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL, THE GROUP VISITING SAUDI ARABIA WILL CALL ON KING KHALID TO PROPOSE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN AN 80 KM. RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WHICH WILL EXTEND TO JUBAIL (VIA

RAS TANOURA) THE SINGLE TRACK LINE FROM RIYADH TO DAMMAN. THE SAUDIS ARE SAID TO BE PLANNING A PETROCHEMICAL AND STEEL COMPLEX IN JUBAIL, AND HAVE ASKED THE JAPANESE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING THE RAIL LINE, THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR WHICH WAS DONE BY A U.S. ENGINEERING CONSULTANT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY, AN OFFICIAL AT THE JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DENIED A PRESS REPORT THAT THE GROUP WOULD ASK TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OIL FIELD PROJECT SAID TO BE LOCATED BETWEEN RIYADH AND THE GHAWAR FIELD. (THE PRESS STORY SAID THAT THIS FIELD IS "IN THE SO-CALLED SECOND MINING AREA" AND "THIS AREA HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA WILL GIVE NO ONE THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP THE AREA UNTIL THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S TAKEOVER OF ARAMCO.")

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6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOJ IS SOMEWHAT NERVOUS ABOUT THE MISSION, FEARING THAT BY LEAVING OUT IRAN, JAPAN'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY (JAPAN'S SECOND MOST IMPORTANT SUPPLIER OF OIL) MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED. THERE IS ALSO SOME CONCERN THAT THE GROUP MIGHT PROMISE MORE THAN IT CAN DELIVER WITHOUT GOJ ASSISTANCE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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